

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01800 110441Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O P 110414Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6348

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1800

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER, JAMES), PFOR, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER DELEGATION PARTICIPATION IN MAO TSE-TUNG
FUNERAL OBSERVANCES

1. SUMMARY. THE SCHLESINGER PARTY WAS INVITED SEPTEMBER
10 TO REMAIN IN PEKING THROUGH SEPTEMBER 13 IN ORDER TO VIEW
THE REMAINS OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG LYING IN STATE ON THAT DAY.
(USLO PARTICIPATION, SEPT 14, WILL BE ON THE SAME DATE) A CHINESE MFA
OFFICIAL TOLD DR. SCHLESINGER THAT CHAIRMAN MAO HAD PERSONALLY
INVITED HIM TO VISIT CHINA AND WAS AWARE OF SCHLESINGER'S PRESENCE
IN CHINA JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEATH. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF A VISIT SEPTEMBER 10 TO
THE GREAT WALL AND MING TOMBS SPECIALLY LAID ON BY THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY FOR DR. SCHLESINGER AND THREE MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY, MFA
AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR LIN PING EXTENDED
AN INVITATION TO THE ENTIRE DELEGATION TO REMAIN IN PEKING
THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. ON THAT DATE THE DELEGATION
COULD JOIN FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS
PRESENT IN PEKING TO VIEW THE REMAINS OF CHAIRMAN MAO
TSE-TUNG LYING IN STATE AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE.
(COMMENT: IT IS INDICATIVE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COURTESIES
EXTENDED DR. SCHLESINGER THAT HE WAS INFORMED OF THESE
ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO NOTIFICATION OF USLO OR OTHER DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS IN PEKING.) LIN PING THEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE
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DELEGATION SHOULD PLAN TO DEPART PEKING EARLY THE FOLLOWING

MORNING.

3. LIN ALSO REVEALED THAT CHAIRMAN MAO HIMSELF HAD DIRECTED IN 1974 THAT A FORMAL INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA BE EXTENDED TO THEN-DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. (NEITHER DR. SCHLESINGER NOR HIS FORMER STAFF ASSISTANT, A MEMBER OF THE CURRENT DELEGATION, COULD RECALL HAVING RECEIVED SUCH AN INVITATION.) IN A SENSE, LIN CONTINUED, DR. SCHLESINGER WAS CURRENTLY IN CHINA AT THE EXPRESS WISH OF CHAIRMAN MAO. AND CHAIRMAN MAO HAD ACCORDINGLY BEEN APPRISED OF DR. SCHLESINGER'S PRESENCE IN CHINA SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH.
DEAN

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